Suspended Agent Hints at Exposing CIA 'Blunders'

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The Des Moines Register and Minneapolis Tribune said yesterday in a dispatch from Washington that CIA agent Hans V. Tofte indicates he has inside information about the Bay of Pigs, the Dominican Republic and Vietnamese operations that could create "embarrassing issues" for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Tofte, who was suspended after papers were seized at his home here by CIA security officers July 24, wrote a letter to a friend at Mason City, Iowa, Washington correspondent Clark Mollenhoff said in his story for the two papers.

Mollenhoff said that Tofte wrote "that his analysis of the Bay of Pigs and serious blunders in the Dominican Republic and Vietnam" were among papers seized.

Mollenhoff wrote, "Tofte indicated the CIA security raid on his home might have been motivated by a desire to seize the highly critical analyses."

The dispatch said Tofte has written the friend, Charles E. Strickland, asking that he inform friends of Tofte's controversy with the CIA. The story added:

"He indicated he hopes to force an expose and a clean-up in top personnel at the CIA, and anticipates a difficult and bitter fight."

Mollenhoff wrote that the letter included an attack on CIA director Richard Helms and implied that Helms was one of "those who planned and executed the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion."

Meanwhile Tofte, a 55-year-old Danish born agent, revealed yesterday that he had been called before a CIA panel investigating whether he had violated security. He said he demanded that Helms make a public statement explaining whether the CIA illegally searches American homes.

"All of a sudden the meeting was over," he added. "The whole meeting lasted six minutes."

The CIA's version is that Tofte's house was up for rent and a fellow CIA employee chanced on secret CIA documents there while he was house hunting.

Tofte has been suspended with pay from his $25,000 a year position while the CIA probes the case.

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